

**Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council
Children and Families Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 5, 2016 from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM
928 Old Harmony Rd, Newark, DE 19713
Call-in information:
302-526-5475
Conference ID: 6940783#**

Minutes of Meeting

Members Present: Alex Eldreth, Committee Chair; Angela Mitchell, parent advocate; Carrie Melchisky, Parent Advocate; Rick Kosmalski, Parent Advocate

Members Absent: Shawn Rohe, Parent Advocate; Barbara Monaghan, Self-Advocate; Nancy Lemus, Parent Advocate; Bill Monaghan, Self-Advocate

Guests Present: Christina Benson, Parent Advocate; Jules Emory, University of Delaware

Attending via teleconference: Steve Yeatman, Parent Advocate

Staff Present: Kristin Cosden, Social Services Administrator, Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC)

- I. **Call to order-** Chairperson Alex Eldreth called the meeting to order at 1:34 PM.
- II. **Approval of Minutes-** A quorum being present, the committee voted to approve the minutes.
- III. **Approval of Agenda-** A quorum being present, the committee approved the agenda as written.
- IV. **Chair's Report-** Alex thanked the committee for attending, and also for electing him as Chair. He directed the committee's attention to the 2017-2021 State Plan Work Plan, which was included in the committee members' information packets. Alex stated that Kristin Cosden had outlined the objectives in the document which the Children and Families Committee was tasked with addressing in the next five years. The Children and Families Committee has been assigned four objectives out of thirteen in the plan. Alex stated that the committee must discuss the objectives and prioritize them. The objectives assigned to the committee are as follows:

Objective SA 4- "Disseminate information and increase social dialog between self-advocates and the community through a variety of approaches, including networking and community events, social media communication, sponsored roundtables, topical community conversations, community events, educational opportunities and conferences. Three hundred (300) self-advocates will be impacted over the course of the Five (5) Year State Plan at a rate of sixty (60) self-advocates per state plan year."

Objective IAC 2.- "Work collaboratively with our network partners at the Center for Disabilities Studies (CDS) and the Delaware Disabilities Law Program (DLP) as well as other local advocacy organizations to educate all key state policymakers on the benefits of expanding state Medicaid and CHIP programs to

include free or low-cost wellness, exercise and weight-loss options for individuals with disabilities. Key state policymakers will receive education over each of the five (5) years of the Five (5) Year State Plan.”

Objective HC 2.- “Develop and/or approve curriculum and provide training for physicians and other clinical professionals. Include information on assistive technology, cultural competence, physical/cognitive accessibility needs, telemedicine, patient rights and disability etiquette. Develop and/or approve curriculum during year one (1) of the Five (5) Year State Plan. Provide training to fifteen (15) clinicians per year during years two (2) through four (4) of the Five (5) Year State Plan.”

Objective EEI 1. - “Advocate for improved awareness of career choices for children with disabilities, including those children receiving core services in segregated settings, through assessment and interest identification from early education to best match each student with associated career opportunities through planned communication with the Delaware Department of Education, Delaware School Districts, and families. Planned communications will take place twice per year for years one (1) through three (3) of the Five (5) Year State Plan.”

The committee agreed to begin working on objectives IAC2 (educate all key state policymakers on the benefits of expanding state Medicaid and CHIP programs to include free or low-cost wellness, exercise and weight-loss options for individuals with disabilities) and HC2 (Develop and/or approve curriculum and provide training for physicians and other clinical professionals within year one of the 2017-2021 state plan). The committee felt that the objective dealing with increasing social capital for people with disabilities through a series of community events (SA4) could be accomplished throughout the five year time frame with less planning than the other, more research-intense objectives. The committee also expressed a desire for clarification of the intent of Objective EEI 1 before beginning their work on this objective.

In keeping with their decision regarding the prioritization of the objectives, the committee discussed potential community partners to invite to attend a discussion with the committee. Alex suggested Lisa Zimmerman of the Division of Medicaid and Medicare Assistance (DMMA), Vicky George (person with a disability who is an athlete) and State Representative Mike Ramone. Alex stated that he will reach out to these individuals and invite them to the committee’s November 2, 2016 meeting. Kristin stated that she will reach out to the leadership at the YMCA of Delaware and also ask that they attend the November 2, 2016 meeting. This would begin the committee’s work on Objective IAC2.

Kristin noted that the University of Delaware is developing a curriculum for clinicians which will be rolled out this fall/winter. The committee agreed that it would be beneficial to invite Sarah LeFave of the University of Delaware to attend their December meeting. The committee expressed that it seemed natural to not “reinvent the wheel” and also to work collaboratively with our network partners. Kristin stated that she would reach out to Sarah and invite her to attend the December Children and Families Committee meeting. Kristin noted that the regularly-scheduled committee meeting coincides with the 2016 Delaware Transition Conference, and asked the committee if they would like to reschedule the meeting in order to attend the conference. The committee agreed to push the meeting back by one

week to Wednesday, December 14, 2017 from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM. Kristin stated that she would cancel the originally-scheduled date with DDDS and ask if the training room the committee normally uses is available on December 14. Kristin said that she will inform the committee as soon as she has more information about the availability of the room.

Alex stated that due to his position at Autism Delaware, he will need to be in Dover at Legislative Hall each Tuesday through Thursday beginning in January 2017 when the General Assembly re-convenes. This conflicts with the present Children and Families Committee meeting schedule, which is the first Wednesday of each month. After discussion, the committee agreed to move their meetings to the third Friday of each month from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM. Kristin stated that this time frame falls immediately after the regularly-scheduled Adult Issues Committee meeting. She said that she will reach out to DDDS to inquire about reserving the training room for the 2017 dates and would update the committee on the progress of the reservation.

- V. **Staff Report-** Kristin Cosden declined to give a report, due to the large amount of work to be done by the committee members in providing their feedback on the State Plan Work Plan.

- VI. **New Business**

- A. **Next meeting-** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 2, 2016 from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM at DDDS Fox Run, 2540 Wrangle Hill Rd., Bear, DE in the second floor conference room. Call-in is available at 302-526-5475, Code 6940783#.
 - B. **Any other items the committee would like to discuss-** Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.